

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

BUREAU OF PUBLIC LANDS

LITTLE SQUAW MANAGEMENT UNIT

Public Reserved Lands System

Management Plan

October 1988

ADOPTION CITATION

In accordance with the provisions of 30 M.R.S.A. s_4162 (3) and consistent with the Bureau of Public Lands' Planning Policy and Integrated Resource Policy, this Management Plan is hereby adopted.

RECOMMENDED: _____

DATE: _____

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APPROVED: _____

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INTRODUCTION

This document is the first ten-year Plan for management of the Public Lands in the Townships of Little Squaw--T3R5, and Big Squaw--T2R6, the Little Squaw Management Unit. It has been designed to meet the requirements for multiple-use management plans set forth in Title 30 M.R.S.A. s_4162, and is consistent with the Planning Policies adopted June 1985 and Integrated Resource Policies adopted December 1985 by the Bureau of Public Lands (The Bureau).

The purpose of this Plan is twofold. First and foremost, it is a commitment to the public, which owns these lands, that the lands will be managed well and in accordance with the law. As such, this Plan has been designed to be readily understood by all of the using public. In this Plan, the Bureau also commits to making significant changes only after providing opportunity for further public participation. Second, this Plan is a directive to the Bureau staff; it provides clear goals and direction for them to follow in fulfilling their responsibilities.

This is not a Plan of operations. It is written to permit professional managers to respond to current situations--to have a degree of flexibility as to how long-term goals should be accomplished. All detailed management decisions will undergo interdisciplinary review to ensure a well-balanced approach.

Because forest management objectives frequently require long periods of time to achieve, this Plan has been written broadly enough to be appropriate for many decades. However, the Bureau's policies call for a complete review and updating of this Plan every ten years to insure responsible management

planning. Sections of the Plan will be updated as new information is processed.

The Bureau wishes to acknowledge the helpful participation of many Maine citizens and others in the development of this Plan. Through the assistance of the Public Advisory Group (listed in Appendix 2), and through the many comments received in response to the draft Plan, the Bureau has heard and incorporated many constructive suggestions from Maine people. We thank those persons for their assistance, and we appreciate the importance of their contributions. Continued public support will be needed to meet many of the goals and objectives outlined in this Plan.

C. Edwin Meadows, Jr., Director

Bureau of Public Lands

September 9, 1988

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Location Map

LITTLE SQUAW MANAGEMENT UNIT**Public Reserved Lands System****Unit Management Plan****September 1988****SECTION I CHARACTER OF THE LANDBASE**

The Little Squaw Unit is located just west of Greenville, in the Townships of Little Squaw, (T3 R5), and Big Squaw, (T2 R6). The Unit is approximately 13,544 acres in size, with only 960 of those acres being in Big Squaw Township. The lands were acquired from Scott Paper Company in 1984 and Great Northern Nekoosa Corporation in 1975.

The terrain in the southeasterly quarter of the Unit is flat to gently rolling, with the remainder of the Unit having moderately rolling to steep terrain. Most of the Little Squaw Mountain Range is contained here. Several ponds, brooks, and streams are found--particularly nestled in lowlands within the steep areas. A statistical summary of the land cover looks like this:

88.6% forested

3.5% open water

5.2% wetlands

2.7% ledge, roads, other

100.0%

Adjacent landowners are International Paper Company to the west, south, and east; Huber to the west; Scott Paper Company shares most of the northern boundary; Big Squaw Mountain Corporation shares a short boundary, which broadens into a larger ownership to the north; and, Greenville Junction is on the northeastern Unit boundary.

Fishing and snowmobiling in a remote setting are the singular most popular public uses of the Unit. Hunting, hiking, remote camping, and other "backcountry" recreational uses are also available here. It is interesting that these types of opportunities are available within a short distance to the sizeable town of Greenville. Increasing numbers of people from both local and distant regions are seeking outdoor recreational opportunities in this area. Pressures on the Unit's resources--related to proximity to a popular and growing recreation destination area--present several management challenges here.

Various combinations of activities will be provided for throughout the Unit, in keeping with the Bureau mandate to carry-out an integrated multiple-use program. The featured opportunity, however, is backcountry recreation in a natural, mountainous setting. For the purposes of public use and enjoyment, the Bureau will supplement existing opportunities available at Big Squaw Mountain, Lily Bay State Park, and on Moosehead Lake. For example, hiking trails and remote campsites will relieve public-use pressures elsewhere, and offer recreational experiences of a comparatively less-developed nature. The natural and semi-remote character of the area will be maintained, while providing for a diversity of public opportunities.

SECTION II KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

This Plan addresses the entire multiple-use management program for the Little Squaw Unit. There are ten major issues which provide the principal focus for this Plan. Because of the nature of multiple-use management, the resolution of these issues will be addressed throughout. The issues and the primary discipline which they are associated with are as follows:

1. Recreation. The Unit is characterized as being semi-remote, and as offering a range of backcountry recreational opportunities. The basic management issues revolve around how to maintain the semi-remote character and allow for existing uses, while at the same time offering an expanded range of backcountry opportunities to meet increasing public demands.

2. Wildlife.

a. How to most appropriately improve habitat quality and increase habitat diversity, particularly increasing amounts of softwood trees.

b. How to balance harvests by fishermen with the ability of the waters to sustain the fisheries.

3. Timber.

a. How to best manage immature forests which are dominated by hardwood tree species, in an area with limited markets for low-quality hardwood.

b. How to most appropriately develop management access to timber management areas, particularly on the north side of the Little Squaw Mountain ridgeline.

4. Transportation.

a. How to assure that road access to the Unit is always available to the public.

b. How to manage road access to the backcountry recreation facilities, in keeping with the multiple-use nature of the Unit.

5. Administration.

- a. How to deal with the thirty-five camp leases on and near Route 6 and 15, most of which occupy land of no multiple-use value and some of which do not conform to Bureau standards.
- b. How to most appropriately administer Greenville's sanitary landfill lease on the Unit.
- c. How to handle new special use requests on the Unit, such as the Greenville Water Company pipeline to Big Squaw Pond, requests for gravel from commercial contractors, and use of the Unit's road system related to the new industrial park.

SECTION III RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The Bureau's multiple-use management system is based on the allocation of areas for specific uses. Because of the nature of multiple-use management, these areas may overlap, creating zones where management is designed to accommodate a variety of uses. In such areas, the objectives for each type of use will be defined within the Plan. In order to avoid conflicts, a dominant use will be identified; this dominant use will take priority over all other uses, which become subordinate uses. Where a use is planned to be subordinate, it will be managed to the greatest extent possible without negatively affecting the dominant use.

The dominant use will be determined according to the level of sensitivity. In other words, the use which requires the more careful management will dominate. The following list indicates the priority sequence for establishing dominant use.

1. Special Protection. Habitat for rare plants, some areas of old growth forests, endangered animal species habitat.

2. Backcountry. Low intensity recreation areas where motorized vehicles are prohibited, with the exception of snowmobiles.

3. Wildlife Management. Wetlands, riparian zones, deeryards, special habitats.

4. General Recreation. Campsites, boat launches, trails, and areas of more intensive public use.

5. Visual Zones. Areas where recreation will not occur directly as in backcountry and general recreation zones, but where management activities could adversely affect visual enjoyment, (e.g., corridors along access roads; slopes on the other side of a pond from a campsite).

6. Timber. Where no other zone has been applied, as long as it is suitable for timber production under the Bureau's general timber management standards.

The maps in the following sections describe the use areas according to wildlife and special protection, recreation and visual concern, timber, and transportation. No single map of dominant use areas is provided, as the many - often overlapping areas appear confusing. Dominant use areas are established, however, and integration requirements must be understood according to the above priority list.

SECTION IV RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

In this section, management for each type of use will be described, and maps will show the areas defined for those uses. It is important for the reader to keep in mind that a particular acre is typically used for more than one purpose during the same time period. In such cases, the dominant use will be determined by priority as explained in Section III.

The areas delineated on the maps are subject to only minor adjustment by Bureau personnel without formal changes in this Plan. For each section of the Plan, appropriate management actions will be described for each use as if it was the dominant use. Where the use is a subordinate use (for example, timber management within a riparian zone), management will be modified to accommodate the requirements of the dominant use. For convenience in this Plan, management actions will be described in the following sequence: Special Protection, Wildlife, Recreation, Visual Consideration, Timber, Transportation, and Special Uses.

A. SPECIAL PROTECTION (Refer to Map 2)

1. Description of Resource

Areas designated for special protection by the Bureau, contain resource values in need of management efforts which are protective in nature. Three such areas have been identified on this Unit. Another area in need of special consideration will also be discussed here.

The first protection area is the 283 acre Wiggins Brook Bog. It is classified as a "domed" or "convex raised" bog. Although it is not rare from a Statewide perspective, the State Planning Office considers the Bog significant from a regional perspective.

The second and third protection areas surround (1) Little Notch Pond and Big Notch Pond, and (2) Big Squaw Pond, Little Squaw Pond, and Papoose Pond. These two areas fall within remote pond boundaries delineated by LURC, include exceptionally scenic areas, and are associated with steep terrain and fragile soil conditions. The combination of these factors, plus the fact that Big Squaw Pond is the headwater for part of Greenville's water supply, result in the special protection designations.

Special Protection & Wildlife areas map

The special consideration area is the 1,200 acre watershed around Big Squaw Pond and Big Squaw Stream. The Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) has zoned this area as a protection subdistrict--unusual area (P-UA). The concern here is that water coming from the Pond is used as part of Greenville's water supply.

No other areas in need of special protection or consideration have as yet been identified on the Unit. Compartment examinations conducted by the Bureau will continue to assess resource conditions and values, including recommendations for areas in need of special protection designation.

2. Dominant Use

Working with the Nature Conservancy's Natural Heritage Program and the State Planning Office's Critical Areas Program, the Bureau is mapping locations of all known rare or endangered plants and animals, and exemplary natural features on and adjacent to Public Lands. When the mapping is completed, field inventorying will begin. Specific protective requirements will be developed and implemented as needed, based on degree of rarity, sensitivity to various disturbances, need for scientific study, and related factors.

To date, only Wiggins Brook Bog - considered a significant formation by the State Planning Office - has been identified for the purposes mentioned above. The Bog has the potential of being the site of certain rare plants and/or vegetation types. If sites of rare vegetation are located, more stringent protection measures will be implemented.

The area on the Unit designated for special consideration is the LURC PU-A zone around Big Squaw Pond. The Bureau will work with the Greenville Water Company and LURC to ensure that timber harvesting, management road

development, or any other management activities in this area will not adversely effect water quality or quantity in the Pond or in Big Squaw Stream.

During the normal course of compartment examinations, the entire Unit will be evaluated for areas in potential need of special protection designation. Particular attention will be paid in the Moore Bog area in the northwestern portion of the Unit.

3. Secondary Use

The special protection areas around the Ponds will be managed for backcountry recreational purposes as a secondary use. No other management activities will occur. Use levels will be monitored periodically and the areas made available for scientific research purposes.

B. WILDLIFE (Refer to Map 2)

1. Description of Resource

a. Forest

Forest habitat conditions for wildlife vary widely over the Unit -- primarily as a result of harvesting practices occurring before State ownership. Much of the western part of the Unit was cut heavily in the 1960's and 70's and has regenerated primarily to hardwood. The extensive areas of sapling-sized hardwood trees provide little shelter or other types of forest diversity which most wildlife species need.

The southeastern part of the Unit was also cut heavily, but has regenerated to both softwood and hardwood - with softwood trees predominating. This area supports more wildlife species and higher

population levels than to the north, because more habitat types are available.

The remainder of the Unit's forest has a fairly good distribution of tree species and ages, resulting in good wildlife habitat conditions. Most indigenous species of wildlife may be found on the Unit. No deer wintering areas or endangered species are known to occur here. A major deer trail has been reported near Big Indian Pond. The trail will be field checked and mapped, if appropriate, during the winter of 1988-89.

b. Wetlands

A 283-acre raised peatland associated with Wiggins Brook provides additional habitat diversity of importance to many wildlife species. A water control structure was installed on Wiggins Brook in the fall of 1987 by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIF&W) in cooperation with the Bureau and International Paper Company. The resulting sixty-five acre wetland impoundment provides excellent waterfowl and other wildlife habitat in an area with few similar opportunities. Moore Bog is a twenty-five acre wetland nestled between Trout Pond Mountain and the Big Squaw Mountain range. Several smaller wetlands are scattered across the Unit.

c. Riparian Areas

In wildlife management, lands adjacent to watercourses, waterbodies, or wetlands are called "riparian" areas. Riparian areas typically provide good edge, food, travel lanes, and other wildlife benefits. The Bureau designates 330 foot-wide strips around waterbodies and wetlands, and along each side of major watercourses as riparian areas. Minor watercourses receive seventy-five foot-wide areas along each side. These areas are managed for wildlife as the dominant use.

d. Fisheries

Seven major ponds are located on the Unit. These are:

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>SIZE</u> |
|--------------|-------------|
| Big Squaw | 91 Acres |
| Little Squaw | 25 Acres |
| Papoose | 4 Acres |
| Big Notch | 12 Acres |
| Little Notch | 10 Acres |
| Trout | 33 Acres |
| Big Indian | 289 Acres |

The west side of Shadow Pond is also included on the Unit. Brook trout and minnows are found in all of the ponds. Smelt occur in Big Indian, Trout, Little Squaw, and Big Squaw Ponds. Big Indian also has a limited lake trout population.

A one acre man-made pond, located in a gravel pit just north of Wiggins Brook Bog is stocked with brook trout by DIF&W. The pond offers the opportunity for children to learn about fishing. Several brooks and streams also contribute to the Unit's fisheries resource. Intake Pond, a 1 1/2 acre manmade pond, is located on the Unit, but is owned and operated by Greenville Water Company.

2. Dominant Use.

a. Fisheries

All of the open water on the Unit is allocated for wildlife, with the primary goal of managing the existing fisheries in a remote setting. The DIF&W plans to continue the stocking programs on Big Indian and the gravel pit Ponds. Management will be conducted in coordination with DIF&W, and will

include periodic monitoring of the fisheries resource to help ensure that it remains productive.

The DIF&W has authority to regulate the use of boat motors on Maine's waterbodies for safety purposes. The Bureau supports regulating these motors for the additional purposes of maintaining high-quality fisheries and protecting values associated with the remote recreation experience. To date, motors are not allowed on Trout Pond. Strong sentiment has been expressed by the Advisory Group, Bureau staff, and others to not allow motors on Little Squaw and Big Squaw Ponds as well. Another recommendation is to consider limiting motor size on Big Indian Pond to ten horsepower. The Bureau proposes to work with the DIF&W to promote these motor restrictions.

Additional fisheries protection is provided by LURC remote pond zoning for five of the seven major ponds on the Unit. This regulation prohibits recreational use of vehicles* within one-half mile of Big Squaw, Little Squaw, Papoose, Big Notch, and Little Notch Ponds.

Big Indian Pond supports a limited natural lake trout population. The regional DIF&W fisheries biologist has identified a lack of suitable spawning habitat as a potential limiting factor for this species. The Bureau will ask DIF&W to evaluate this situation, and if feasible, will propose a cooperative project with DIF&W to create this habitat. As other fisheries problems or opportunities arise, the Bureau will take appropriate actions aimed at balancing use of the resource with the ability of the fisheries to sustain themselves.

***Does not include snowmobiles.**

b. Riparian Zones

The three major goals of riparian zone management are:

(1) Maintain vegetative diversity, both in terms of height and species types.

(2) Maintain continuity of travel cover for wildlife throughout the watershed and adjoining ecosystems.

(3) Protect adjacent aquatic environments from degradation.

These areas are subject to active timber harvesting, using selection harvesting methods to accomplish the goals outlined above.

c. Wetlands

A water control structure with a drop spillway was installed in the fall of 1987 on Wiggins Brook, at the north end of the bog. The project was carried out by DIF&W through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau and International Paper Company, the adjoining landowner. The project has created a sixty-five acre flowage area which is expected to become high quality waterfowl habitat. Waterfowl nest boxes have been installed and will be maintained on the area, and wild rice is to be seeded-in during the fall of 1988. Moose, beaver, otter, and muskrat are included in the species which will also benefit from the stable water levels provided by the water control structure.

The remainder of the Wiggins Brook Bog and Moore Bog will remain as natural wetlands, yet with the Bureau willing to consider wildlife enhancement projects as proposed. To the extent that they represent valuable areas of habitat diversity, the wetlands and surrounding riparian zones will be maintained for wildlife and research purposes.

d. The Moosehead Lake Game Sanctuary is located between the shore of the Lake and Route 15, and includes ninety-five acres in the northeastern corner of the Unit. The effect of Sanctuary status is that the DIF&W prohibits hunting and trapping on these lands, and the landowner must keep the property boundaries posted. The sanctuary program began many years ago and has not been actively supported in recent years. The Sanctuary status of this portion of the Unit is not in keeping with normal Bureau policy nor with the goals of multiple-use management in the area. The Bureau will discuss discontinuing this designation for the Moosehead Lake Sanctuary lands on the Unit with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

2. Secondary Use

Recreation and timber management are important secondary uses in most wildlife zones. A diversity of wildlife species, optimum population levels, and healthy individuals are among the benefits of proper wildlife management -- and timber harvesting is one of the key management tools for upland habitat development and maintenance. While harvesting in these areas will be incorporated within the general timber program, it will primarily be designed for specific wildlife benefits.

Timber harvesting practices prior to State ownership reduced the amount of softwood growing in this area - a result of market demand and timber conditions. In response to both wildlife habitat needs and long-term timber market predictions, BPL timber management in wildlife dominant areas will strive to increase softwood on sites best suited to this type of tree growth. More softwood will translate into a wider diversity of wildlife habitat. A concurrent benefit for wildlife will be the development of an increase in the number and amount of tree age classes, which will increase the amount of habitat diversity.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OF OTHER FORESTED AREAS

Throughout the non-wildlife dominant, forested areas of the Unit, wildlife habitat will be managed under the general guidelines for forest management activities. These guidelines are described in the Bureau's "Integrated Resource Policies" and "Wildlife Guidelines", (see Appendix 3). They include requirements to create and maintain diversity of vegetation, to preserve den trees and snags for wildlife, and for the staff biologist to make specific recommendations for wildlife habitat improvements as opportunities are identified. An example on this Unit will be to encourage development of softwood stands - identified as being useful for deer and other species.

Recreation & Visual map

Recreational facilities map

C. RECREATION (Refer to Maps 3 and 4)

1. Description of the Resource

The Little Squaw Unit is adjacent to the town of Greenville, whose year-round population of 2,000 quadruples during the summer. Moosehead Lake is a major recreational attraction during the summer, while the Big Squaw Mountain Area is a major attraction during the winter months. The Big Squaw Mountain Corporation has plans to expand its recreational facilities and become more of a year-round resort area. Another major recreational opportunity is Lily Bay State Park, located four miles north of Greenville center.

Hunting and fishing have been the traditional public uses of the area now comprising the Unit. Use of woods roads and rustic campsites in a relatively remote setting have been part of this historic experience. Snowmobiling is a popular activity, with certain roads on the Unit being used. The mountainous terrain, scattered ponds and brooks, and forested conditions add to the richness of this public land resource.

The two broad types of recreation management on Public Reserved Lands are backcountry and general recreation. Backcountry areas are defined in Bureau policy as being extraordinary in terms of scenic quality, remoteness, and natural characteristics. Backcountry is currently the primary recreation use being managed for on this Unit.

Of particular interest in this area are: The five remote ponds which offer fishing, canoeing, and camping opportunities; the Little Squaw Mountain Range with hiking and scenic vistas; and exploring the forest, brooks, and streams, in typically steep terrain conditions.

Existing recreational facilities on the Unit include:

Several miles of hiking trail along the Little Squaw ridgeline, around Big and Little Squaw Ponds, and leading to little Notch Pond.

- Three hike-in campsites with a pit privy and boat storage rack on Big Squaw Pond.

- Two hike-in campsites with a primitive privy on Little Squaw Pond.

- A two and one-half mile cross-country ski trail (not used during 1987-88 by local high school that established trail).

- A seven mile section of the ITS snowmobile trail.

2. Dominant Use

Recreation management objectives are tailored to Bureau policy and the natural resource base. The Bureau proposes to continue the "backcountry" recreational character of the Unit, while at the same time offering an expanded hiking trail and campsite system, somewhat improved road maintenance conditions, and continued road and cartop boat access close to Big Indian Pond.

Of the seven major ponds on the Unit, six are managed for remote recreational opportunities. Big and Little Notch Ponds, Big and Little Squaw Ponds, and Papoose Pond are zoned as remote ponds by the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). Most of the land included with the LURC remote pond areas here are also allocated by the Bureau for backcountry recreation use.

The Trout Pond area is not designated as backcountry; yet semi-remote, near-backcountry conditions exist and will be maintained. The North Road passes within five-hundred feet of the Pond, and no other public road access is planned here. DIF&W regulations prohibit motors on the Pond, and only one

private camp is located here--owned by Skylark Corporation. These situations, the riparian zone and visual consideration designations surrounding the Pond, will combine to provide most visitors with a backcountry opportunity here.

One Skylark camp lease is in effect on the north side of Big Indian Pond, and five privately-owned camps off the Unit are located on the southwest side of the Pond. The intersection of the North and Mountain Roads come within five-hundred feet of the Pond, and a camp access road from this intersection leads to the north side of the Pond. Visitors occasionally infringe on this leasehold by parking here and launching boats next to the leased lot.

Strong sentiment has been expressed by the campowners and other current visitors to Big Indian Pond to not improve public access here and to protect the semi-remote character of this beautiful area. While the Bureau understands this sentiment and will modify improvements accordingly, it must also be recognized that:

a. Historic road access has been provided to the Pond - the only pond on the Unit with road access. This Plan only calls for restoring the original road, not building a new one.

b. The campowners and lessees enjoy road access to the six camps on the Pond;

c. The DIF&W stocks the Pond annually for the purpose of public use and enjoyment; and,

d. Big Indian is the largest pond on the Unit - larger than all of the others put together - and is surrounded by mostly publicly-owned land.

The Bureau has developed the following management objectives for this area, with the goal of maintaining the semi-remote, natural character here:

a. Maintain the North Road for public access to Big Indian Pond and the west end of the hiking trail, yet keeping the Road to lower, "woods road" standards.

b. Providing a carry-in boatlaunch site, with parking no closer than three hundred feet from the Pond and to the east of the existing leasehold.

c. Develop four hike-in, single-party campsites on the northeast side of the Pond.

d. Monitor public use levels here, and take any appropriate actions necessary to protect the natural resources involved and maintain the semi-remote experience provided here.

Development of other proposed recreational facilities during the ten-year plan period include:

- An expansion of the hiking trail system which would serve the Notch Ponds area. Hiking trailheads would then exist on the Mountain Road to the east of the Notch Ponds, on the Mountain Road near Big Squaw Pond, and on Route 15.

- Develop a single-party, hike-in campsite at Little Notch Pond--an existing use in need of management.
- Two or three seasonal campsites developed along the North Road for deer hunters, and made vehicle accessible. This use exists and is in need of management action. Designating this small area for general recreation would be called for.
- Re-opening a leg of a snowmobile trail leading from Big Squaw Mountain, crossing the Unit along the North Road, and then north and west of Big Indian Pond. Details on this proposal need further development by the

Bureau of Public Lands, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, and local snowmobile interests.

- Developing nature trails and/or interpretive stops along existing or proposed hiking trails, at Wiggins Brook Bog, at the gravel pit pond area, or other appropriate locations. This proposal needs further development with local organizations.

3. Secondary Use

Wildlife management is a compatible use of the backcountry area. Much of the backcountry is also designated for riparian zone management. Much of the public use here revolves around the remote fishing opportunities. The fisheries resource will be periodically monitored to help assure healthy, native fish populations.

Timber harvesting can be a compatible secondary use on forested areas within the backcountry zone - subject to several constraints. The special protection PU-A will be harvested in accordance with sound watershed management principles. The hiking trail corridor and most of the backcountry area also fall within the visual consideration zone. Only selection cutting techniques will be employed which maintain the crown cover and otherwise minimize disturbance of the site. Primary goals of harvesting in the backcountry are to enhance recreational values, wildlife habitat, and minimize safety hazards, while providing for the production of timber. Management roads and log yards will be few and designed to be visually unobtrusive.

Road and hiking trail intersections will be kept at a minimum. It is noted that little harvesting of the area is anticipated within the foreseeable future because of the topography of the backcountry, the dominant use designations, and the limitations of current harvesting techniques.

D. VISUAL CONSIDERATIONS (Refer to Map 3)

1. Description

The scenic quality of the Little Squaw Unit is a valuable asset for the purposes of public use and enjoyment. Visual consideration requires additional planning for timber harvesting, road development, and related activities in an effort to maintain the natural appearance of the forest. The goal is to make the results of these activities visually unobtrusive rather than invisible.

Maintaining scenic quality is a primary consideration in all areas identified for public use. Visual zoning is in place around all public access roads, hiking trails, campsites, and areas readily visible from the surface of all waterbodies located on the Unit.

The backcountry experience is intimately tied to the feeling of "being away from it all" in a natural setting. The area along the ridgeline of Little Squaw Mountain and the bowl surrounding Big and Little Squaw Ponds and Papoose Pond are all part of the visual zone.

2. Dominant Use

For the most part, scenic values are protected by the other resource allocation zones (resource protection, wildlife, and recreation), which govern the application of management activities within the zones, (e.g., no timber harvesting in special protection areas). The Bureau's Integrated Resource

Policy calls for coordination of all timber harvesting and related operations with staff specialists--including the recreation specialist who is responsible for making visual resource management recommendations.

Management of the gravel pits along the North Road require further visual consideration. Several of those pits are visible from the hiking trail on Little Squaw ridgeline. New extraction faces will be oriented away from the hiking trail to avoid further visual affects. Scarified areas will be revegetated when mining is completed.

3. Secondary Use

In those visual consideration areas where other, more restrictive provisions do not apply, all standard uses are permissible. These include recreation, road construction, and timber harvesting under appropriate constraint. Development of recreation facilities in a visual area will result in a change of designation to a recreation use area. As already mentioned, roads and timber harvesting will be as unobtrusive as possible, while still enhancing forest growth, regeneration, and wildlife habitat.

E. TIMBER

1. Description

The lands now comprising the Little Squaw Unit came to the State from two forest products companies. Because of the different timber management programs conducted on the lands and because of differences in soils and terrain conditions, timber conditions on the Unit today vary widely.

The Unit's broad forest types are approximately 44% northern hardwood, 42% mixedwood, and 14% softwood. Of the 12,923 forested acres, 10,173 acres (78.7%) are available for regularly-scheduled commercial harvesting operations. The Bureau calls these lands "regulated" acres.

Broad forest types on the regulated acres are 49% hardwood, 39% mixedwood, and 10% softwood. Much of the softwood (spruce and fir) is located on the Little Squaw Mountain ridgeline--primarily unregulated acres. On the entire forest resource here, the amounts of trees (volumes) by species are:

| | | |
|--------------|----|-----------|
| sugar maple | -- | 29% |
| beech | -- | 14% |
| red maple | -- | 13% |
| cedar | -- | 11% |
| fir | -- | 10% |
| spruce | -- | 10% |
| yellow birch | -- | 8% |
| all other | -- | <u>5%</u> |
| TOTAL: | | 100% |

Timber Areas Map

To describe timber conditions more specifically, the Unit can be thought of in four sections:

- (1) Northeastern
- (2) Southeastern
- (3) Western
- (4) Trout Pond Mountain Area

(1) The northeastern section, 3,824 acres in size, is dominated by hardwood trees (79%). The area is fully stocked (trees per acre) with pole-- and small sawlog-sized trees (five to fourteen inches in diameter). Nearly half of the total timber volume is sugar maple--a commercially valuable species--with 22% beech, and lesser amounts of yellow birch, red maple, spruce, and fir.

(2) The southeastern section of the Unit--the second smallest of the four at 1,849 acres--contains more than half of the softwood volume on the entire Unit. Timber types are:

- 31% softwood
- 55% mixedwood
- 14% hardwood

Spruce, red maple, cedar, fir, and yellow birch are the dominant tree species. Tree quality, vigor, and site conditions are quite variable here, ranging from poor to very good. The area has been partially harvested during the past twenty years, and budworm killed approximately one-third of the fir trees five to ten years ago.

(3) Much of the western section, 4,086 acres in size, was cut very hard in the ten years prior to State acquisition. Timber types are:

- 6% softwood
- 60% mixedwood

- 34% hardwood

Standing volumes on the harvested acres are very low--with less than nine cords per acre. Red maple is the most common species, with lesser amounts of spruce, fir, cedar, yellow birch, and beech.

(4) The Trout Pond Mountain area is dominated by the Mountain, and is 960 acres in size. Sixty-three acres are non-forested bogs and ledges. Because of steep slopes and thin soils, another 483 forested acres are unregulated. This leaves 43% of the area, or 414 acres, as regulated forest.

Hardwood on the regulated acres is of only fair quality because of past harvesting practices, is well-stocked, and averages over fifty feet tall. The softwood and much of the mixedwood was moderately to heavily cut fifteen to twenty years ago, leaving a low-quality overstory and generally excellent regeneration.

The following chart compares the amounts of broad forest types found on the regulated acres of the four sections of the Unit, on all of the regulated acres, and on all of the Unit's forested acres.

LITTLE SQUAW FOREST TYPES

| | <u>Western</u> | | <u>Regulated Acres</u> | | | | <u>Southeastern</u> | |
|----------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|---------------------|---|
| | <u>Acres</u> | % | <u>Northeastern</u> | | <u>Acres</u> | % | <u>Acres</u> | % |
| S* | 259 | 6.3 | 215 | 5.6 | 565 | 30.6 | | |
| M* | 2,414 | 59.1 | 581 | 15.2 | 1,023 | 55.3 | | |
| H* | 1,413 | 34.6 | 3,028 | 79.2 | 261 | 14.1 | | |
| TOTALS: | 4,086 | 100.0 | 3,824 | 100.0 | 1,849 | 100.0 | | |

| | <u>Trout Mountain</u> | | <u>All Regulated</u> | | <u>All Forest</u> | |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| | <u>Acres</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>%</u> |
| S* | 29 | 7 | 1,068 | 10.5 | 1,767 | 13.7 |
| M* | 137 | 33 | 4,155 | 40.8 | 5,425 | 42.0 |
| H* | 248 | 60 | 4,950 | 48.7 | 5,731 | 44.3 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| TOTALS: | 414 | 100 | 10,173 | 100.0 | 12,923 | 100.0 |

***(S = Softwood, M = Mixedwood, H = Hardwood)**

2. Dominant Use

Commercial production of forest products, using sound silvicultural practices, is the dominant use of the areas designated for timber. Broad management goals include:

- Increasing the amount of softwood,
- Improving hardwood quality, and
- Improving management access to the regulated forest areas.

To meet these goals, management activities during the next ten-year period will be directed at the following targets:

a. Northeastern Section.

Manage for the higher-value hardwood species, with an eye toward increasing softwood regeneration on appropriate sites. The number of trees per acre should be reduced through thinnings and selection harvests, leaving the better growing, more valuable species to continue growth. Management road access to the north side of Little Squaw ridge must be developed--although at a cost. The volumes and quality of the wood to be removed from initial harvests will be too low to pay for road construction costs. High value products should be available for future harvest.

b. Southeastern Section.

Seek a cedar market, as this species constitutes 35 to 40% of the softwood volume. Monitor development of the eighty-five acres of sapling-sized softwood which was precommercially thinned in 1985. Evaluate condition of budworm-weakened stands, potentially in need of salvage operations.

c. Western Section.

Nearly 3,000 acres of heavily cut forest must be examined. The area is poorly stocked with a low-quality hardwood/mixedwood overstory. An evaluation of the dense young stands created by these cuttings will be made to further identify management direction for the area.

d. Trout Pond Mountain Section.

Reduce the number of low-quality hardwood trees in the overstory through thinnings and selection harvests. Monitor development of the high-quality regeneration. Evaluate the potential for precommercial thinning in the fifteen to twenty acre stand of spruce and fir, just south of the bog in the northeast corner of the section. Management road access must be developed to the west side of the Mountain.

3. Secondary Use

Wildlife habitat extends throughout the timber zone, and is the principal secondary use. All timber operations will be coordinated with the staff wildlife specialist--particularly where potentials are highest for habitat improvements benefiting threatened or endangered species. Recreation is also a secondary use in the timber zone. Coordination with the recreation staff will be geared towards consideration of the hunting, fishing, and related recreational interests.

4. Timber as a Secondary Use

On most of the Unit outside of the Special Protection and regulated acres, timber is a secondary use. Harvesting will be less intensive in these areas and timber production per acre will therefore be reduced. The objectives of harvesting will be to maximize the values of the other, more dominant uses(s), rather than responding primarily to maximum timber yield concerns. Since most of the Unit is subject to visual consideration of timber harvesting and as most of the timber types consist of hardwood trees, selection systems will be the typical form of silviculture practiced--causing the least amount of obvious change in the forest while producing high quality hardwood timber.

SECTION V ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS

This section addresses issues which are essentially administrative in nature, yet which are important to resource management programs.

A. Vehicle Access

A number of roads lead onto the Little Squaw Unit, resulting from the multiple land ownership pattern and proximity to Greenville Junction. Four road issues have been identified.

1. One of the roads leading onto the Unit from Greenville Junction passes through a private dooryard. The Bureau will close this inappropriate access route, and use the so-called Industrial Park Road as the road access to this section of the Unit. This proposal would make road maintenance less costly, eliminate potential problems for the private landowner and otherwise allow the Bureau to better manage this section of the Unit. We want to ensure, however, that effects of this proposed road closure are fully assessed.

2. Road access to the Unit from the north passes over Scott Paper Company land for approximately one mile. Big Squaw Mountain Corporation now owns the land along the north side of this stretch of road. As this road continues onto the Unit, it is on public land for approximately one and one-half miles, and again comes onto Scott Company land for approximately one-half mile before entering public land again. The Bureau calls this road the North Road.

The Bureau proposes to have this road continue as the primary access road for both public access to the Trout Pond, Big Indian Pond, and Notch Ponds recreational areas, and for Unit management purposes. Branching off the North Road is the Mountain Road, which is proposed for continued public access to the Squaw Ponds hiking trailhead (see Recreation maps). The Bureau wants to work closely with Scott Paper Company to ensure that road use and maintenance problems do not arise.

3. International Paper Company (IP) owns the old railroad bed road connecting Greenville Junction and Shirley Mills. This road provides access to the southeastern portion of the Unit for both public access and management purposes. The Bureau will work with IP to provide for public use of the road in the future.

4. The Town of Greenville is working with the Department of Transportation in planning a bypass route around Greenville Junction. The only apparent land available for this purpose is the Little Squaw Unit. The Bureau will monitor this project and make every effort to most appropriately mitigate any changes in use of public land here.

B. **Special Uses** (See Map #6)

1. Sanitary Landfill

The Town of Greenville currently has a lease with the Bureau for use of a fifty-nine acre sanitary landfill site located off the Dyer Road. A license with the Department of Environmental Protection for this use is in effect. Bureau policy adopted since this agreement was entered into calls for no new agreements for this type of use on any of the Public Reserved Lands. The Bureau will monitor Town compliance with the lease terms. According to 1987 sanitary landfill legislation, the Bureau will be involved in this relicensing process in 1990.

2. Gravel

Gravel deposits are known to occur on the Unit. Gravel pits have been opened along roads prior to State ownership, and several pits are currently being used. The easterly end of the Dyer Road passes through one of these pits on the Unit. The Bureau uses the gravel for Unit roads, parking areas, and related management purposes. Limited commercial gravel sales have been made from this Unit, as a special exception to Bureau policy.

The Bureau plans to begin more comprehensive management of the gravel resource here. The Maine Geological Survey has been asked to conduct a study and prepare a report on the extent of Unit gravel deposits. At the same time, the Bureau will be determining long-term gravel needs for Unit management purposes, based on guidelines set forth in this management plan.

3. Water Company

Greenville Water Company conducts certain uses on the Unit for the purpose of supplying part of Greenville's municipal water. Water is taken from Intake Pond which is fed by Squaw Brook. A pump house and

approximately 1 1/2 miles of pipeline are located on the extreme north part of the Unit.

The Land Use Regulation Commission has recently closed Shadow Pond as a source of municipal water used by Greenville Water Company.

C. Camplot Leaseholds

Some thirty-five "camp" leases are located on Route 6 and 15, and off Route 6 and 15 near the Greenville townline. These leases came with the property when State ownership took place in 1975. Several of the lessees have expressed interest in purchasing their leaseholds.

The Maine legislature has directed the Bureau to consider the possible sale of the lots. The money generated from these potential sales would be put in the Bureau's land acquisition account for the future purchase of land with higher value for public benefit purposes. No new camp leaseholds will be entered into on any of the Public Reserved Lands, in keeping with Bureau policy.

SECTION IV SUMMARY OF MAJOR DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

A. Character of the Landbase

Goal: Maintain the natural, semi-remote character of the Unit.

Action: Monitor public use levels to determine appropriate management planning and actions.

B. Special Protection

Goal: Locate and protect all rare natural resources and significant cultural resources.

Actions:

1. Make Wiggins Brook Bog available to researchers for determination of the occurrence of any rare plants or vegetation types. If

located, develop appropriate protection measures.

2. Coordinate work planning for the P-UA area with Greenville Water Company and LURC.

3. Evaluate the potential for special use designation for Moore Bog.

C. Wildlife

Goal: Work towards creating optimum habitat conditions for indigenous wildlife species and fisheries.

Actions:

1. Field check the reported deer trail near Big Indian Pond for possible mapping and management planning purposes.

2. Coordinate the monitoring of amounts of fishing levels with the DIF&W.

3. Discuss the potential for limiting outboard motor size to ten horsepower on Big Indian Pond with the DIF&W.

4. Evaluate the feasibility of creating lake trout spawning habitat in Big Indian Pond with the DIF&W.

5. Manage the Wiggins Brook flowage area for wildlife, within the context of the area's dominant use as special protection. Maintain the nest boxes, seed-in wild rice, and monitor results.

6. Discuss dropping the designation for the Moosehead Lake Game Sanctuary lands on the Unit with the DIF&W.

7. Strive to increase habitat diversity within wildlife dominant areas. Increasing amounts of softwood growth and tree age classes are specific objectives.

D. Recreation

Goal: Maintain the backcountry recreational character of the Unit. Supplement recreational opportunities which exist elsewhere in the region.

Actions:

1. Maintain the North Road and Mountain Road to somewhat lower standards than normal for multiple-use roads, continuing the winding, visually-pleasing, backcountry-nature they have currently.

2. Provide a carry-in boatlaunch site on the northeast shore of Big Indian Pond, with a parking area no closer than within three-hundred feet of the Pond.

3. Develop four hike-in, single-party campsites on the northeast/east shore of Big Indian Pond.

4. Monitor use levels of all recreation facilities on the Unit. Take appropriate actions necessary to protect the natural resources involved and to maintain the natural character of the areas.

5. Develop a single-party campsite at Little Notch Pond, served by the hiking trail. Develop a trailhead/parking area on the Mountain Road, east of the Notch Ponds.

6. Develop two or three vehicle-access, seasonal campsites along the North Road for deer hunters.

7. Work with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and others to develop a snowmobile management agreement for the Unit. A leg of the snowmobile trail from Big Squaw Mountain to the Unit boundary northwest of Big Indian Pond will be reopened.

8. Coordinate the development of nature trails and/or interpretive stops along existing trails with local interest groups.

9. Manage the gravel pits so as to minimize visual affects. Stabilize the pits appropriately when mining is complete.

E. Timber

Goal: Manage the timber resource so as to increase amounts of softwood, improve hardwood quality, and improve management access to the regulated acres.

1. Northeastern section. Manage for higher-value hardwood species while encouraging softwood regeneration on appropriate sites. Work towards developing management road access to the north side of Little Squaw ridgeline.

2. Southeastern section. Locate cedar markets for cost-effective management of the sizeable cedar resource. Monitor development of the eighty-five acres of thinned softwoods. Evaluate condition of budworm-weakened stands for potential salvage harvesting.

3. Western section. Monitor development of the heavily-cut acres. Determine management direction for the area by end of ten-year planning cycle.

4. Trout Pond Mountain section. Reduce the amounts of low-quality hardwood trees in the overstory. Monitor regeneration development. Evaluate twenty-acre stand of spruce and fir in northeast corner for precommercial thinning. Plan towards developing management road access to west side of Mountain.

F. Transportation

Goal: Maintain appropriate public vehicle access to the Unit and balance vehicular-access and non-motorized access (backcountry) recreational opportunities.

1. Work with Scott Paper Company to ensure continued public vehicle access over the North Road.

2. Work with International Paper Company to ensure continued public vehicle access over the railroad bed road.

3. Close the "dooryard" road in Greenville Junction.

4. Monitor planning of the proposed by-pass route around Greenville Junction.

B. Administration

1. Monitor the Town of Greenville's compliance with lease terms for the sanitary landfill. Give appropriate information to the Department of Environmental Protection regarding relicensing of the landfill in 1990.

2. Determine long-term gravel needs for Unit management purposes, and correlate the findings with the Maine Geological Survey's report on gravel deposit extent.

3. Evaluate effects of the potential sale of the camplot leaseholds on Route 6 and 15.

APPENDIX 1.

GLOSSARY

1. Allowable Cut: The number of acres which can be harvested annually, for long-term, sustained yield timber production.

2. Backcountry: Remote areas with exceptional natural features and allocated for primitive recreation as the dominant use. Management is characterized by no public vehicular access, dispersed use, minimal campsite facilities, with harvesting (where permitted) by uneven-aged methods only, designed to retain the natural character of the area and minimize conflicts with recreation use.

3. Cutting Cycle: The interval between harvest operations in uneven-aged management.

4. Edge: The place where plant communities meet or where successional stages or vegetative conditions within plant communities come together.

5. Endangered Species: A Maine endangered species is a species in immediate danger of extirpation from Maine due to critically low or declining numbers brought about by habitat loss or degradation, over-exploitation, pollution, disease or other factors. This definition includes any species that spends a significant part of its life cycle within the State of Maine and is not limited just to species that breed in Maine.

6. General Recreation: Areas typically accessible by vehicles and allocated for recreation as the dominant use. Management is characterized by moderate intensity use, including: picnic tables, firerings, pit privies, vehicle parking (on-site or relatively nearby), and a forested attraction(s)

- typically, a body of water. Harvesting will be directed towards aesthetic and safety considerations only.

7. Regeneration: Both the process of establishing new growth and the new growth itself, occurring naturally through seeding or sprouting--and artificially by planting seeds or seedlings.

8. Regulated Forest Acreage: That portion of the commercial forest landbase on which the annual allowable harvest is calculated.

9. Release Cutting: Any cutting operation designed to remove competing vegetation from or establish proper spacing intervals among desired trees.

10. Rotation: The age at which stands of timber are harvested for particular economic or silvicultural objectives.

11. Selection: Related to uneven-aged management, the cutting of individual or small groups of trees; generally limited in area to patches of one acre or less.

12. Silviculture: That branch of forestry which deals with the application of forest management principles to achieve specific objectives with respect to the production of forest products and services.

13. Site Quality: That combination of environmental factors and species requirements which serve to measure the degree of success with which a particular tree species will occupy a given area of the forest.

14. Stand: A group of trees, the characteristics of which are sufficiently alike to allow uniform classification.

15. Stocking: The amount of trees in a given area as compared to the amount desired for the best growing conditions.

16. Sustained Yield: The amount of timber that a forest can produce continuously within a given system of management.

17. Threatened Species: A Maine threatened species is not as critically jeopardized by extirpation as an endangered species, but will probably become endangered if current population levels experience further declines. This definition includes any species that spends a significant part of its life in Maine and is not limited just to species that breed in Maine.

APPENDIX 2.PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Gary Morse | Bureau of Forestry, Augusta |
| David Wight | Bureau of Forestry, Greenville |
| Paul Johnson | Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Greenville |
| Bill Nobel | Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Greenville |
| Charles Davis | Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Shirley Mills |
| Scott Ramsey | Parks & Recreation, Snowmobile Division |
| Hank Tyler | State Planning Office, Critical Areas Program |
| Rep. Richard Gould | House of Representatives |
| Senator Charles Pray | President of the Senate |
| Jack Dyer | Dirigo Lumber, Greenville Jct. |
| Jim Blanck | International Paper, Greenville |
| Thomas Edwards | Greenwood Motel, Greenville |
| Norman Chase | Scott Paper Company, Fairfield |
| Mark Johnson | Scott Paper Company, Fairfield |
| Ron Jones | Greenville Water District, Greenville |
| Jerry Bley | Natural Resources Council of Maine |
| Allen Phillips | Campowner, Portland, Maine |
| Charles Baker | Campowner, Shirley Mills, Maine |
| Denise Yeamans | Big Squaw Corporation, Greenville |
| David Cota | Town Manager, Greenville |
| Kathi Cooper | Campowner, Greenville |

APPENDIX 4.**REFERENCES**

1985. Public Reserved Lands of Maine, Planning Policy. Bureau of Public Lands. Thirty-eight pages.

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